

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing Amendment is believed to be in order and is respectfully solicited by reason of the fact that such Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. It also is noted that the claim language calling for "at least one" thread appeared in the claims as filed and throughout prosecution of this application, so objection to this language for the first time is inappropriate in a "final" rejection, which is to say that "final" status of the rejection is inappropriate.

Claims 1, 5-8 and 15 are presented for prosecution in the present application.

The indication of allowable subject matter in claim 4 is noted and appreciated. Dependent claim 4 has been incorporated into independent claim 1, whereby independent claim 1 and dependent claims 5-8 and 15 are allowable at this time.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested concerning the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 112. The word "continuous" is defined in *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*, for example, as "marked by uninterrupted extension in space, time or sequence." Thus, a "continuous" thread recited in claim 1 is as distinguished from a discontinuous or interrupted thread of the type disclosed in Reiss 4,032,028. Furthermore, the application as filed clearly shows continuous external threads on the container neck finish in FIGS. 2 and 12-14. Likewise, continuous internal threads on the closure skirt are clearly shown in FIGS. 2 and 7-8 of the application as filed. Finally, the word "continuous" does not imply infinite length, as suggested in the Office Action; a line can be "continuous" but only one inch long.

The claim language calling for "at least one" external thread on the container neck finish and "at least one" internal thread on the closure skirt was in claim 1 of the

application as filed and has appeared continuously in claim 1 from that time. It is difficult to see how an objection could be made to this language for the first time in the fifth Office Action on this application and the Action be made "final." In any event, it is well known in the art that a container neck finish can include one, two, three, four, etc. external threads, and that a closure skirt can correspondingly include one, two, three, four, etc. internal threads. The cited Kusz patent, for example, discloses four external threads on the container neck finish (column 2, lines 46-47) and four internal threads on the closure skirt (column 2, line 66 to column 3, line 4). The words "at least one" therefore mean exactly what they say – i.e., that the container neck finish includes at least one external thread and the closure skirt includes at least one internal thread.

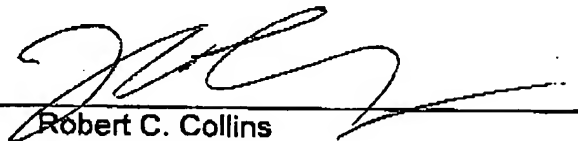
It therefore is believed and respectfully submitted that claims 1, 5-8 and 15 are allowable at this time, and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any fees associated with this submission to Acct. No. 50-4417 (Rexam Plastic).

Respectfully submitted,

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